

### **REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are amended. The revisions to claims 1, 4, and 7 are supported, for example, at Figure 2, and at paragraph 53 (page 13, lines 5-11) in the specification. Claims 1-7 are pending, with claims 1, 4, and 11 being independent.

#### **Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-7 stand rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,700,169 (Jones) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0003819 (Adamczyk). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a personal watercraft with a ride plate and jet propeller. The ride plate is set at an angle relative to a reference line, the reference line being parallel to a horizontal line of the watercraft during planing, such that the ride plate forms an upward gradient toward the rear side of the hull. The axis of the jet propeller is set with a rearwardly downward gradient. By this arrangement, excessive rising up of the stern during an initial acceleration of the boat can be reduced. *See, e.g.*, paragraphs 133-142 (page 32, line 13 through page 34, line 20).

Jones is directed to a personal watercraft. As the Examiner notes, Figure 1 of Jones appears to show a stern section of a boat that has an upward gradient toward the rear. However, Jones does not teach or suggest that a ride plate is set with an upward gradient relative to a horizontal line of the watercraft during planing. In the absence of any suggestion to the contrary, one with ordinary skill in the art would assume that the ride plate (80) of Jones is not set with an upward gradient toward the rear during planing.

Adamczyk does not remedy the deficiencies of Jones. Adamczyk merely discloses a watercraft with a jet drive power source that forms a negative angle. Adamczyk does not teach or suggest a ride plate that is set with an upward gradient relative to a horizontal line of the watercraft during planing.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons.

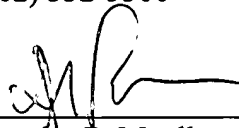
Independent claim 4 recites features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Independent claim 7 is a method claim that tracks the language of claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 7 are also allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1. In addition, claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4, and are believed allowable for the same reasons.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

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Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300  
CBH:DTL